

My next son, with seven he fourteen, and he, on my first visit  
Mr. Ch. Tappan, views as to age &c. to go into a plan for the first.

My Frederick should in the course of this year be placed in a store,  
the old gentleman, his grand old father, would be the more willing to as-  
sist George & Frederick. what chance could George on any business.

It is scarcely possible to give him all on paper. If you are not content who  
you consult on this subject, you may be sure, either from their ignorance  
or self-interest, false opinions, or careless ones.

With great respect I am, dear Sir, ever yours.

Lawson Kingsbury

Framingham,  
Ms. Feb. 11.

Rev. A. A. Phelps,

Minister at the Marlboro' Chapel,

Boston

Paid.  
mailed  
Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>

Paid

6

You will talk this case over with Mr. Tappan, <sup>confidently</sup> and any other men-  
chants whom you can rely, and when you are ready write me an an-  
swer to this, and let me know what can be done as to a store or count-  
ing room, and also after conversing if you like on with such men as Rev.  
Mr. Windsor & Rev. Mr. Rogers, tell me fully what you should judge that  
I had best try to do for George & Henry, you will not only oblige, but  
you may make an interesting & promising young man; I trust you  
like. What you may in your next, reflecting a plan, will be use-  
ful to me & mine, whether George goes into mercantile business or not.



bury. His grandfather loves George and is proud of him. He would like to have his grandson go into a good store - any good business. But George in taking a place in the city, will be obliged to take into consideration the compensation he is to receive during his apprenticeship or clerkship. Under all the circumstances, with his present feelings, he would not go into a counting-room or store, with the agreement that he should pay his board, & all his other expenses, and clothe himself - until he is 21. There are good places in the city, where they will pay the board of such a young man as they like. But it will require influence & perhaps a good deal of influence to obtain such a situation as you would wish a young man to accept in Boston or N. York.

I am truly brought to understand it is wise, is it my duty, to have this young man give all his services, and pay all his expenses until he is 21, and then perhaps have only an account activity. His board in Boston would cost me & his friends about as much as it would to carry him through college & qualify him for the business of teaching, or prepare him for the practice of a profession, without the collegiate course. I think, at this moment, that he would not go into the city, unless he should perceive some situation, that would excite his ambition, and where he would perceive his board & an equivalent. Mr. Teach told me very cordially that he would aid George with Mr. S. V. S. Wilder of New-York in the Spring, or consult Mr. Wilder on George's case.

Mr. Charles Tappan will know whether Mr. Wilder will be likely to have a place for such a young man. George would have talents, education & address enough for a mercantile agency in Europe, if he could first get the necessary mercantile business experience here. That you may judge something of George's present state of qualifications, I can mention that he has been accepted this winter as a school-teacher, and also that a gentleman, who knows George, has written a few days written me - this gentleman is one of the most distinguished & experienced, & one of the best common sense men in New-England, & a high officer of a religious benevolent Socy - that his views of my son are such, that if George would study awhile and then take the professional course, that he would vouch for my son's success and warrant him a good living, rank & respectability.

But I am afraid that George can not sufficiently submit to habits of application to study, and that, therefore, it may be necessary to have him prepared for the more active life of trade or commerce. I should have no objection to some intellectual mechanic trade, if Geo. had a taste & talent for one. For instance, that of Engraving.



ated in a town where the Sabbath is observed, and where he would have the advantage of society that might be useful, would please George quite as well as a situation in the city. But I am not able to find any such store in the country, as Mr. C.

Tappan would consider a desirable situation for a young man of some promise. I believe the name of Tappan is one of the first among the merchants in Boston & New York. Mrs. Chs. Tappan, <sup>of N. York</sup> is I suspect a brother of Mr. Arthur Tappan N. Y. and Mr. John Tappan, Boston. Mr. Tappan's advice & opinions would not only gratify me, but they would be important, and may be absolutely conclusive with me & my son.

George would prefer to go into some dry goods store. He would have but a small capital to begin with at 21. He is cautious, and would choose to remain a clerk, some years. Now would

Mr. Tappan, would an experienced dry goods merchant, advise that he should serve his time in the English, or French goods business; in an importing house, or a commission house, or with a jobber, or retailer?

Next. There is great competition in the dry goods business, and it is extremely uncertain. But very few men in that branch of mercantile life, succeed. I have thought that the most intelligent & influential families in Boston & New York do not put their sons in dry goods stores. George would not like a West-India goods store, nor the spirit trade, nor the wine trade.

Could not your friend, Mr. Chs. Tappan, suggest a store, or counting room in some branch of trade or commerce or finance, that would be superior to the dry goods business, and where he would have superior opportunities to get a mercantile education, make himself a book-keeper. (Geo. has been thro' a system of book-keeping by double entry, twice, at Leicester Academy & also in this Academy) and acquire a knowledge of banking & commercial affairs?

For instance; Macmillan & Tappan, 25 Central Wharf. I have no knowledge of those gentlemen, but I suppose they are in the Russia, & India trade.

Now can't some mercantile line be suggested that would be as pleasant as the dry goods business, (French & English goods) and give more prospects to a young man, who will only have a small capital, without touching the exceptionable West-India goods trade, or any of the productions of the labor of the slave?

I must now give you another aspect of my case. George Henry will doubtless have a property from his grandfather, Asa Kings-



Lawson Kingsbury 10  
Framingham, Feb. 27 1840.

Hon. Mr. Phelps,

Very Dear Sir:—

16  
Your letter of Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> giving the result of your inquiries in behalf of my son, demands my best acknowledgements.

The aid you have so kindly proffered ~~to me~~ lays me under such deep obligations that I am anxious to represent that I can not but hope that any favor you may be able to confer upon George, will not only oblige a deserving young man, but certainly be gratifying to some of your old & particular friends. Rev. Mr. Fiske of Wrentham has been a friend of our family, more than thirty years. Your classmate, Dr. Henry C. Beard, Esq. is a very excellent friend of mine. I had the pleasure of a letter from him, a short time since, in which he expressed much interest for George, and gave his advice strongly on some points in reference to my son's choice of pursuits. Mr.

Trask & Mrs. Trask have been uniformly kind to George. A lady who with her friends dined at Mr. Trask's, a few weeks since, tells us, that almost the first thing Mr. Trask made, was, after Geo. Kingsbury. He was delighted to learn that George was keeping school. Mr. S. Lee was kind & polite to George, and took an active interest for him, while he was at New Ipswich.

George is now here studying Latin & Greek. He needs nothing but the languages, to fit him for college, or to prepare him for a professional course. I am, by no means, sure, as yet, of the decided bent of his mind, but he needs nothing but habits of diligent application to give him success, in that walk which shall be his choice.

I was extremely happy to learn that you had consulted Mr. Charles Tappan, merchant, on the subject of my son. It is extremely difficult to get valuable opinions on this matter.

As to George's age (he was 17, last May) to go into a store in Boston, for the first— I supposed that depended upon a number of circumstances— the kind of business, and the policies that should be desired of a young man.

As to Mr. Tappan's opinion, that he would have a young man go into a country store first and remain there till he is 21— I am strongly inclined to ~~the~~ <sup>favor</sup> it, ~~same~~ <sup>same</sup> opinion, and a first-rate store in the country, sita-